TEXT OF STATEMENT BY HOOVER ON THE WARREN REPORT

NYT MAGAZINE 11-26-66

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (UPI)—Following is the text of the statement by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, on recent challenges of the findings of the Warren Commission on the Kennedy assassination:

The Warren Commission and its findings concerning the assassination of President Kennedy currently are being severely criticized. The conclusions of the commission, especially its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination, have been openly challenged.

In support of their speculations, some of the critics allege, among other things, that there is a "conflict" between portions of two F.B.I. reports and the official autopsy report regarding the wounds found in the President's body.

While there is a difference in the information reported by the F.B.I. and the information contained in the autopsy report concerning the wounds, there is no conflict.

The F.B.I. reports record oral statements made by autopsy physicians while the examination was being conducted and before all facts were known. The autopsy report records the final findings of the examination.

Two Agents at Autopsy

Briefly, this is what happened. The autopsy was conducted at Bethesda Naval Hospital on the evening of Nov. 22, 1963. Two F.B.I. agents were present.

They reported that Dr. James J. Humes, chief autopsy surgeon, located what appeared to be a bullet hole in the back below the shoulder and probed it to the end of the opening with a finger. The examining physicians were unable to explain why they could find no bullet or point of exit.

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Unknown to the agents, the physicians eventually were able to trace the path of the bullet through the body. On the morning of Nov. 23, 1963, Dr. Humes contacted doctors who treated the President at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Tex., the previous day and confirmed his assumption that a tracheotomy had been performed using a bullet hole in the front of the neck as the point of incision.

The information reported by the agents present during the autopsy was summarized on page 18 of the F.B.I. report dated Dec. 9, 1963.

Hole Found in Clothing

Meanwhile, the clothing worn by the President when he was shot was examined in the F.B.I. laboratory. This examination revealed a small hole in the back of his coat and shirt and a slit characteristic of an exit hole for a projectile in the front of the shirt one inch below the collar button. A nick on the left side of the tie knot, possibly caused by the same projectile which passed through the shirt, also was noted.

These findings clearly indicated the examining physician's early observation that the bullet penetrated only a short distance into the President's back probably was in error.

Since this observation had been included in the F.B.I. report of Dec. 9, 1963, another reference was made to it in the report of Jan. 13, 1964, in conjunction with the laboratory findings to point up this probability.

The F.B.I. and the Warren Commission each received a copy of the official autopsy report on Dec. 23, 1963, from Secret Service following a specific request for this document. Since the F.B.I. knew the commission had a copy of the official autopsy, its contents were not repeated in an F.B.I. report.

Film Charge Denied

Recently the charge has been made that the F.B.I. altered the film of the assassination taken by Abraham Zapruder. This is totally false. The F.B.I. never had the original Zapruder film in its possession—it was purchased by a national magazine. The F.B.I. obtained a copy of the original uncut film and reproduced this for the commission, which since has turned it over to national archives.

At the direction of President Johnson, the F.B.I. conducted a prompt, intensive, objective and thorough investigation of the assassination. The results of this investigation were accurately reported to the Warren Commission.

Not one shred of evidence has been developed to link any other person in a conspiracy with Oswald to assassinate President Kennedy. All available evidence and facts point to one conclusion—that Oswald acted alone in his crime.